

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney for applicants thanks Examiner Castellano for the helpful in-person interview held on November 28, 2001, held to discuss the September 25, 2001 office action. At the interview, the Examiner and the undersigned discussed the propriety of adding a figure which showed the profile of the upper barrel edge seen in Fig. 6 for the purpose of delineating its various portions. At the interview, the Examiner indicated that he would check into this issue, and would provide further guidance to the undersigned. This is memorialized in the interview summary record dated November 28, 2001.

On December 3, 2001, the Examiner mailed a supplement to the interview summary, in which the Examiner wrote:

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The concept of adding delineations to the cross section of Fig. 6 will not be considered new matter. The best way to do this is to submit another drawing figure and refer to it as a representation of the delineation of the first, second, third portions, etc. This figure should have the identical profile as the upper barrel edge but include only delineations. No cross hatching should appear and figure shouldn't be referred to as a cross section. Do not change Fig. 6. The delineations will not make the invention patentable. The delineations will aid in providing a reference in describing the structure of the upper barrel edge so that the claims will be easier to understand and clearer in meaning.

The present amendment to the drawings, specification, and claims is believed to be consistent with the Examiner's recommendation.

In the September 25, 2001 office action, the Examiner allowed claims 1 and 2 on the merits. Claims 3-14 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 3,696,962 to Fehres et al. ("Fehres"), and claims 5-17 were rejected under 325 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 4,177,934 to Hammes et al. ("Hammes"). Claims 3-19¹

¹ The Examiner wrote "claims 1-19"; It is believed that the Examiner meant to write "claims 3-19".

were also rejected under 35 USC 112, 1st and 2nd ¶ for the reasons stated on pages 2-4 of the office action.

Claims 1-19, as amended, and new claims 20-23 are being submitted for the Examiner's consideration.

Amendments to the Drawings

Fig. 6 is being amended to add reference numeral 27a to point to the "inner edge" of the first wall portion 27, since the "inner edge" is recited in amended claims 3, 4, 5, 10, 18 and 19. Since the "inner edge" of the first portion appears in the original figures, it is believed that this change to Fig. 6 does not introduce new matter into the application.

Fig. 6a is being added to the application. Fig. 6a has the same profile as the "upper barrel edge" seen in Fig. 6 and is a representation of the delineation of the first portion, second portion and the rib.

Amendments to the Specification

In the September 25, 2001 office action, the Examiner objected to the specification under 35 USC 132 on grounds that the language "the second wall portion being defined as that portion of the upper barrel edge that is above an uppermost section of the rib" (which had been introduced in the amendment filed June 26, 2001) was new matter. However, in view of the Examiner's comments in the December 3, 2001 supplement to the interview summary record, it is believed that this language is now okay, if coupled with the additional drawing of the profile of the upper barrel edge, as suggested by the Examiner.

The text added to the specification in the June 26, 2001 amendment has been canceled. The language added by the present amendment to the specification in the first paragraph at page 15 is supported by original Fig. 6 of the present application and also claim 25, as originally filed, of parent application number 09/363,107, now U.S. Patent No. 6,116,453. The contents of parent application number 09/363,107 were expressly incorporated by reference into the present application, as indicated on the cover sheet PTO/SB/29 submitted with the present application.

The language added by the present amendment to the specification in the second paragraph at page 15 describes the delineations of the first portion, second portion and rib, as

represented in newly added Fig. 6a. It is believed that this change is consistent with the Examiner's December 3, 2001 supplement to the interview summary record.

Amendments to the Claims

Independent claims 3, 4, 18 and 19 have been amended to:

- (1) delete the language "with the second portion being defined as that section of the upper barrel edge that is above an uppermost section of the rib" (to which the Examiner had objected in the September 25, 2001 office action).

However, the language "the second wall portion 27 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is above an uppermost portion of the rib 40" appears in the second added paragraph on page 15, describing new Fig. 6a, to aid in providing a reference in describing the structure of the upper barrel edge;

- (2) delete the language that the second wall portion extends upwardly from the first portion "at a location radially outwardly of said first portion (27)"; and
- (3) add the language "with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29)", a feature that is evident in Fig. 6, now amended to point to the 'inner edge'.

New independent claims 5 and 10 have been amended in a similar manner, with reference to the first chime wall and second chime wall.

Claims 4 and 19 have also been amended to use the term "outer peripheral lid edge" consistently", as suggested by the Examiner in the September 25, 2001 office action.

Claim 5 has been amended to change "contiguous with adjacent" to --contiguous with--, as suggested by the Examiner in the September 25, 2001 office action.

New dependent claims 20-23 each recite a feature seen in original Fig. 6 — the ring flange 54 formed on the lid 12 is clearly seen as being (1) radially inward of the entire first wall portion 27, the second wall portion 29 and the rib 40, and (2) extending below these three items, as well.

Rejection of Claims 3-14, 16-17² under 35 USC 102(b) over Fehres

The September 25, 2001 office action does not elaborate on why these claims, as presented in the amendment filed June 26, 2001, were anticipated by Fehres.

Pending independent claims 3, 4, 18 and 19 all specify that the rib extends "radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of (the) first and second portions". Independent claims 5 and 10 recite that the rib extends "radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls." This feature can be clearly seen in the newly added Fig. 6a, which shows the delineations of the various items.

The Fehres reference clearly does not meet this recited limitation -- Fehres's "rib" extends only to (and not beyond) the outward extent of the first and second portions. Therefore, it is submitted that pending claims 3-14 and 16-19 all define over Fehres.

Rejection of claims 5-17 under 35 USC 102(b) over Hammes

The September 25, 2001 office action does not elaborate on why these claims, as presented in the amendment filed June 26, 2001, were anticipated by Hammes.

Pending independent claims 5 and 10 both recite "a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall." In a preferred embodiment, the "first chime wall" is represented by the "first wall portion 27", and the "second chime wall" is represented by the "second wall portion 28". Newly added Fig. 6a gives the delineations of the first wall portion 27, the second wall portion 28 and the rib 40.

It is submitted that Hammes does not disclose the above-quoted element and so cannot anticipate pending claims 5-17. In Hammes, no portion of a "first chime wall" extends radially inward of the entire "second chime wall"

Therefore, it is submitted that pending independent claims 5 and 10, and claims depending thereon, define over Hammes.

² It is noted that in the September 25, 2001 office action, the Examiner did not specifically reject claims 18-19 which were presented in the June 26, 2001 amendment.

New dependent claims 20-23

The new dependent claims are directed to the arrangement between the barrel body and the lid when the latter is in the closed position over the barrel body. Claims 20-23 are directed to the feature, seen in Fig. 6, that the ring flange 4 is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first and second portions and the rib. Neither the "inside flange 6" of Fehres (Fehres, Fig. 3, col. 2, lines 14-15) nor the "internal wall 7" of Hammes (Hammes Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 25-26) meet this limitation. Therefore, it is submitted that dependent claims 20-23 are independent patentable over either the Hammes or Fehres references.

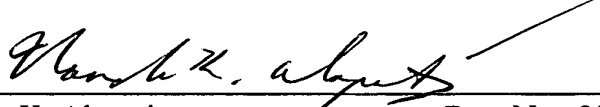
With regard to all claims under rejection that are not specifically mentioned, it is submitted that these are patentable not only by virtue of their dependence on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-23 are believed to be in allowable form and define over the prior art. An early notice of allowance is requested so that the application may proceed to issue. Applicants reserve the right to file a Continuation application submitting previously presented claims.

A separate Fee Transmittal Sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

CHANGES TO SPECIFICATION AMENDED January 16, 2002

Paragraph at page 1, lines 5-10

This is a continuation application of U.S. application serial no. 09/363,017 filed July 29, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,116,453, which is a continuation of 08/793,751 filed September 12, 1995 as the National Phase of PCT/EP95/03586, now U.S. Patent 5,964,367, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application serial no. 08/283,695 filed August 1, 1994, now U.S. Patent 5,593,060, which is a continuation application of U.S. application serial no. 08/049,722, filed April 20, 1993, now abandoned.

Paragraph at Page 9, after line 7:

Fig. 6a shows a profile of the upper barrel edge seen in Fig. 6 and represents the delineations of various portions of the upper barrel edge.

Paragraphs at Page 15, after line 2:

As seen in Fig. 6, the upper barrel edge includes a first wall portion 27 extending substantially radially outwardly from the barrel sidewall, and a second wall portion 29 having a lower section 31 adjacent the first wall portion 27 with at least an inner edge 27a of the first wall portion 27 extending radially inwardly of the entire second wall portion 29. The upper barrel edge 28 also includes an exterior rib 40 which projects radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second wall portions, the rib having both an upper surface and a lower surface and terminating in a free end surface connecting the two.

Fig. 6a has the identical profile of the upper barrel edge 28 of Fig. 6 and presents the delineations of the first portion 27, the second wall portion 29 and the exterior rib 40. As depicted in Fig. 6a, the second wall portion 27 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is above an uppermost portion of the rib 40. As also seen in Fig. 6a, the first wall portion 27 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is: (a) above a level of

the radially innermost portion of the barrel's upper sidewall, (b) below the second wall portion 29 and (c) radially inward of the rib 40 to which the first wall portion 27 is connected.

APPENDIX B

CLEAN COPY OF PARAGRAPHS AMENDED January 16, 2002

Paragraph at page 1, lines 5-10

C 1
This is a continuation application of U.S. application serial no. 09/363,017 filed July 29, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,116,453, which is a continuation of 08/793,751 filed September 12, 1995 as the National Phase of PCT/EP95/03586, now U.S. Patent 5,964,367, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application serial no. 08/283,695 filed August 1, 1994, now U.S. Patent 5,593,060, which is a continuation application of U.S. application serial no. 08/049,722, filed April 20, 1993, now abandoned.

Paragraph at Page 9, after line 7:

C 2
Fig. 6a shows a profile of the upper barrel edge seen in Fig. 6 and represents the delineations of various portions of the upper barrel edge,

Paragraphs at Page 15, after line 2:

C 3
As seen in Fig. 6, the upper barrel edge includes a first wall portion 27 extending substantially radially outwardly from the barrel sidewall, and a second wall portion 29 having a lower section 31 adjacent the first wall portion 27 with at least an inner edge 27a of the first wall portion 27 extending radially inwardly of the entire second wall portion 29. The upper barrel edge 28 also includes an exterior rib 40 which projects radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of the first and second wall portions, the rib having both an upper surface and a lower surface and terminating in a free end surface connecting the two.

Sub D1 7
Fig. 6a has the identical profile of the upper barrel edge 28 of Fig. 6 and presents the delineations of the first portion 27, the second wall portion 29 and the exterior rib 40. As depicted in Fig. 6a, the second wall portion 27 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is above an uppermost portion of the rib 40. As also seen in Fig. 6a, the first wall portion 27 constitutes that portion of the upper barrel edge 28 that is: (a) above a level of the radially innermost portion of the barrel's upper sidewall, (b) below the second wall portion 29 and (c) radially inward of the rib 40 to which the first wall portion 27 is connected.

APPENDIX C

CLAIMS AMENDED IN AMENDMENT FILED January 16, 2002

3. (Twice Amended) In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29) [at a location radially outwardly of said first portion (27)]; the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces[, with the second portion being defined as that section of the upper barrel edge that is above an uppermost section of the rib].

4. (Three Times amended) In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) [at a location radially outwardly of said first portion (27),] to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly

facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces[, with the second portion being defined as that section of the upper barrel edge that is above an uppermost section of the rib].

5. (Twice Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

- a) a drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom; and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from [an outer portion of] said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with [adjacent] said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending from the first chime wall below the second chime wall, and also extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls[, with the second chime wall being defined as that

section of the chime portion that is above an uppermost section of the rib];

- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib; and
- c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall, and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall.

10. (Twice Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

- a) a blow-molded drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom, and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from [an outer portion of] said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime wall, [with the second chime wall being defined as that section of the chime portion that is above an uppermost section of the rib,] the rib further having a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall and substantially perpendicular to

the longitudinal axis of the container circumscribing said lower portion of said second chime wall, whereby the rib increases the moment of inertia of the chime portion and thus provides greater rigidity to said chime portion and;

- b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib, so as to extend only over an upper portion of said second chime wall but not over said rib;
- c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall such that the length of engagement of the lower leg of the ring with the chime portion is increased and the ring has increased resistance to deformation and sliding from the chime if the drum is dropped.

18. (Amended) In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), [at a location radially outwardly of said first portion (27),] ^{deleted} the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower

surfaces[, with the second portion being defined as that section of the upper barrel edge that is above an uppermost section of the rib].
deleted

19. (Amended) In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) [at a location radially outwardly of said first portion (27),] to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge *deleted* (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces[, with the second portion being defined as that section of the upper barrel edge that is above an uppermost section of the rib].
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20. (New) The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 19, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

21. (New) The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 4, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

22. (New) The open top plastic drum according to claim 5, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.

23. (New) The open top plastic drum according to claim 10, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.

APPENDIX D

PENDING CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENT FILED January 16, 2002

1. A plastic lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) and a radially inwardly facing wall surface, a plastic barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28) with an outer downwardly facing peripheral edge disposed radially outwardly of said barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said tension-ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under an outer downwardly facing barrel edge (18) that extends below the upper barrel edge (28), characterized in that:
 - a) said barrel lid (12), between said outer lid edge (16) and said central section, includes an engaging groove (32) for an upper claw of a parrot beak lifting mechanism, said engaging groove (32) having a groove floor (48), a first side wall (52) connecting said floor (48) to said central section and a second side wall (58) connecting said floor (48) and said outer lid edge (16);
 - b) an outer ring flange (54) extending downwardly from said floor (48) of said engaging groove (32); and
 - c) a radially outwardly facing surface disposed along said second side wall (58) and said outer ring flange (54) and having a portion thereof facing said inner wall surface of said open upper end of said barrel body (20).
2. A blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having an uppermost surface and an outer downwardly facing peripheral barrel edge surface (18) disposed radially outwardly of said barrel body (20), and a radially inwardly facing inner wall surface, a barrel lid (12)

covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said tension-ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said outer downwardly facing barrel edge surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), characterized in that:

- a) the lower leg of the tension-ring closure member (14) engages in an indentation (22) in the upper barrel body;
- b) said indentation (22) has an upper boundary defined by said barrel edge surface (18) and a portion extending downwardly away from said barrel edge surface (18) to provide space sufficient to receive a lower claw of a parrot beak lifting mechanism;
- c) the uppermost surface of said upper barrel edge (28) defines an outer support with a lid seal (30) disposed between said upper barrel edge (28) and said U-shaped surface of said outer lid edge (16);
- d) said barrel lid (12), between said outer lid edge (16) and said central section, includes an engaging area (32) for an upper claw of said parrot beak lifting mechanism; and
- e) the upper open end of the barrel body (20) further includes an exterior flange (40) extending radially outwardly of said upper barrel edge (28) with a lower surface thereof defining a part of said outer barrel edge surface (18).

3. (Twice Amended) In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29); the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

4. (Three Times amended) In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) extending radially away from said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

5. (Twice Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:

- a) a drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;

- ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom; and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending from the first chime wall below the second chime wall, and also extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime walls;
 - b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib; and
 - c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime receiving member directly above said second chime wall, and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall.
6. An open top drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib fills a portion of an area between said second leg, intermediate band, second chime wall and circumferential flange.
7. An open top drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib substantially fills said area.
8. An open top drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said drum is made of blow molded plastic and said sidewall is substantially frustroconical.

9. An open top drum as described in claim 5, wherein said cover is plastic and includes a skirt that extends inside said chime portion.
10. (Twice Amended) An open top plastic drum, comprising:
- a) a blow-molded drum body having:
 - i) a closed bottom;
 - ii) a substantially axially symmetrical sidewall extending upwardly from said bottom, and
 - iii) a chime portion for receiving a removable cover, said chime portion extending from said sidewall so as to define an open top and including:
 - (1) a substantially radial first chime wall projecting outwardly from said sidewall and having a bottom surface,
 - (2) a substantially cylindrical second chime wall directed upwardly from said first chime wall and having a lower portion contiguous with said first chime wall, with an inner edge of the first chime wall extending radially inward of the entire second chime wall, and
 - (3) an exterior circumferential rib extending radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second chime wall, the rib further having a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the container circumscribing said lower portion of said second chime wall, whereby the rib increases the moment of inertia of the chime portion and thus provides greater rigidity to said chime portion and;
 - b) a cover having a peripheral chime receiving member that includes a circumferential flange having an inner diameter larger than said second chime wall but less than said circumferential rib, so as to extend only over an upper portion of said second chime wall but not over said rib;
 - c) a retaining ring having first and second legs fixedly connected by an intermediate band, wherein said first leg engages an outer surface of said peripheral chime

receiving member directly above said second chime wall and wherein said second leg engages the bottom portions of said rib and said first chime wall directly below said second chime wall such that the length of engagement of the lower leg of the ring with the chime portion is increased and the ring has increased resistance to deformation and sliding from the chime if the drum is dropped.

11. An open top drum as defined in claim 10 wherein said rib fills a portion of an area between said second leg, intermediate band, second chime wall and circumferential flange.
12. An open top drum as defined in claim 10 wherein said rib substantially fills said area.
13. An open top drum as defined in claim 10 wherein said drum is made of blow molded plastic and said sidewall is substantially frustroconical.
14. An open top drum as described in claim 10, wherein said cover is plastic and includes a skirt that extends inside said chime portion.
15. An open drum as defined in claim 5 wherein said rib has a top surface substantially parallel to said bottom surface.
16. An open drum as defined in claim 5, wherein the open drum is blow-molded.
17. An open drum as defined in claim 5, wherein the exterior circumferential rib has a bottom surface that is substantially coplanar with said first wall.
18. (Amended) In an open top barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) extending circumferentially around said barrel and including a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27), with an inner edge (27a)

of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

19. (Amended) In a blow-molded lidded barrel (10) having a barrel body (20) with an upper open end defined by an upper barrel edge (28) having a first portion (27) attached to said body (20) and having a downwardly facing surface (18), and a second portion (29) extending upwardly from said first portion (27) to define an uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), with an inner edge (27a) of the first portion (27) extending radially inward of the entire second portion (29), a barrel lid (12) covering the open end of the barrel in a closed position of the lid, said lid having a central section and an outer peripheral lid edge (16) which in cross-section defines a downwardly facing U-shaped part overlying said upper barrel edge (28), a U-shaped tension-ring closure member (14), which in said closed position of the lid engages with an upper leg of said-tension ring closure member over an upwardly facing surface of said outer peripheral lid edge (16) and engages with a lower leg of said tension-ring closure member under said downwardly facing surface (18) that extends below said uppermost surface of the upper barrel edge (28), the improvement comprising:

- a) an exterior rib (40), said rib (40) defining part of said barrel edge and having both an upper surface and a lower surface projecting radially outwardly beyond an outward extent of said first and second portions with said lower surface of said rib disposed along said downwardly facing surface (18) and defining a continuing part of said downwardly facing surface (18), said rib (40) terminating in a free end surface connecting said upper and lower surfaces.

Please add the following new claims:

20. (New) The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 19, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

21. (New) The blow-molded lidded barrel (10) according to claim 4, wherein the lid (12) is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange (54) which, in said closed position of the lid (12), is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first portion (27), the entire second portion (29) and the entire rib (40).

22. (New) The open top plastic drum according to claim 5, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.

23. (New) The open top plastic drum according to claim 10, wherein the cover is provided with a downwardly extending ring flange which, in a closed position of the cover over the chime portion, is radially inward of and extends below a level of, the entire first chime wall, the entire second chime wall and the entire exterior circumferential rib.

09/525,002

APPENDIX E
DRAWING CHANGES AFTER AMENDMENT FILED January 16, 2002

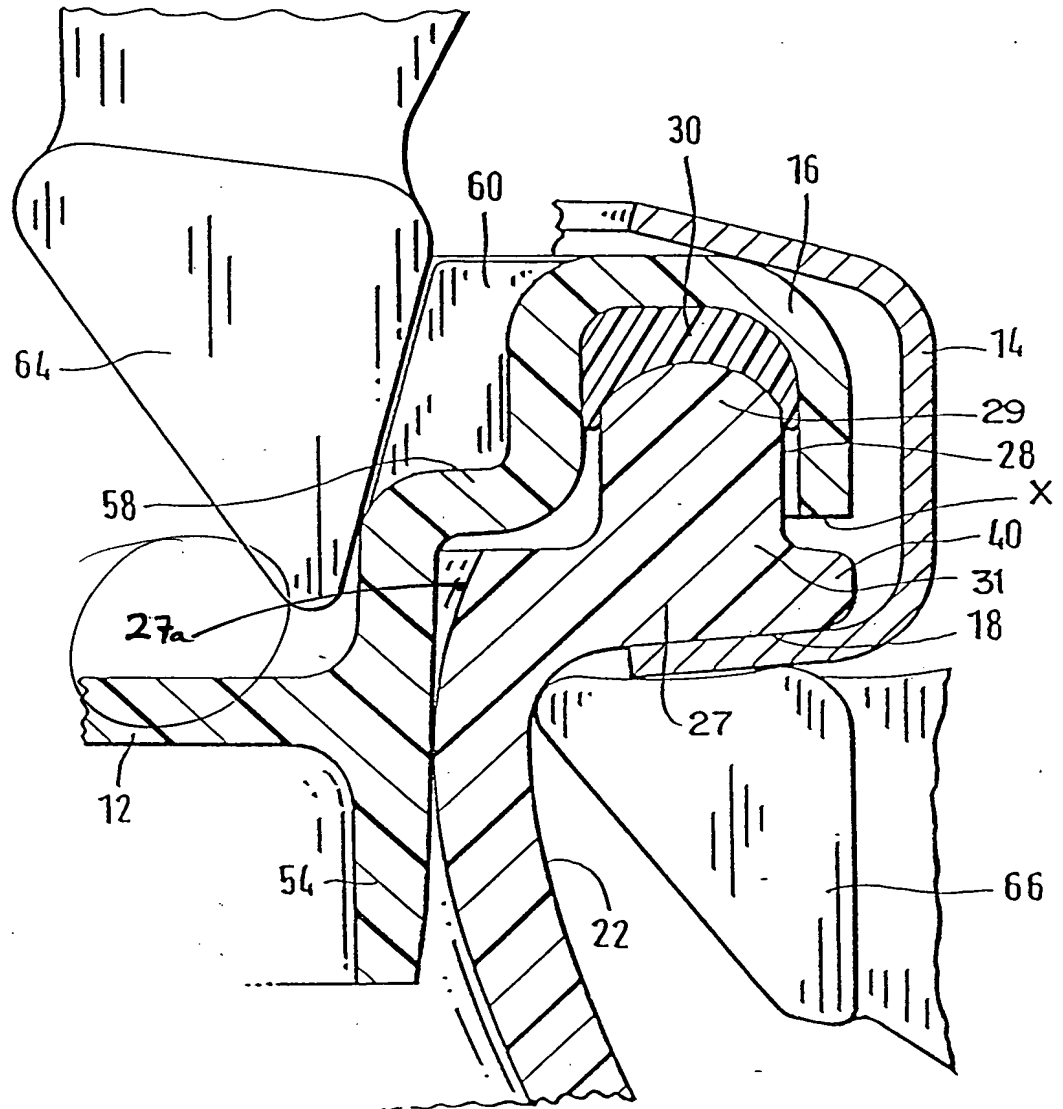


FIG.6

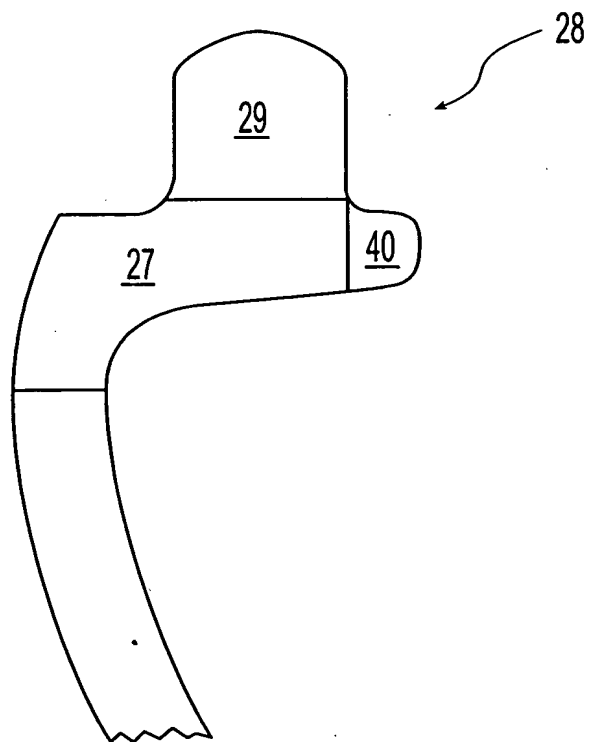


Fig. 6a